

illinoensis Ridgway, 1879, must become a synonym of *bachmani* Audubon, 1834. It may be added that there is no doubt whatever that Lichtenstein's *Fringilla æstivalis* was based on specimens of the dark race. The two will accordingly stand as follows:

Peucæa æstivalis (Licht.) Cab.—*Habitat*, Florida and Southern Georgia.

Peucæa æstivalis bachmani (Aud.) Brewst.—*Habitat*, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois and Indiana.

The respective distribution of these two forms remains to be definitely ascertained. Charleston, South Carolina, seems to be the only point on the Atlantic Coast where var. *bachmani*—as we must now call the red bird—has been found. It breeds there in abundance, as I learned during the past season (1884), when I collected a series of about fifty specimens in April and May. Some of them are intermediates, and a few approach *æstivalis* rather closely, but the majority are essentially typical *bachmani*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black-throated Bunting in Maine.—On Sept. 29, 1884, I shot a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) at Job's Island, one of the smaller islands in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The bird was found in a grass-field near a farm-house, and proved to be a young male of the year in good plumage. This is, I believe, the first instance of its capture north of Massachusetts.

The fact that the specimen was a young of the year, and that it was taken during the autumn migration, would lead one to think it had been reared in the region where it was found, or even farther north.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Foster Parents of the Cowbird.—During the season of 1884 I found young Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) in the nests of the Kingbird, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow.—WILLIAM L. KELLS, *Listowel, Ontario.*

Nest and Eggs of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*).—I have found but one nest of this species, but its location differs so from that given in the books that I am induced to record a description of it. During the spring of 1884 a pair of Rusty Grackles were noticed for several weeks about the garden of a neighbor in the suburbs of St. John, and apparently making their head-quarters in a large spruce which grew within 30 feet of the house, on the edge of a lawn that formed the daily playground of a bevy of children.

I had spent many an hour looking for the nest of this species "among the foliage of low alders overhanging the water," "in low trees and bushes in moist places," and "in swampy tangle," and I was puzzled to determine why this pair were spending the breeding season far away from all such surroundings. There was no doubt about the identification of the birds; I had grown familiar with their appearance from handling numerous specimens, and I saw these daily, frequently within a few feet of me.